

1 but independently movable until final assembly. Therefore, White
2 does not teach all the claimed elements and cannot anticipate the
3 claims.

4 Claims 5, 6 and 8 stand rejected as anticipated by Doubler et
5 al. Doubler teaches a similar prosthesis with a split ring locking
6 the intramedullary rod and the remainder of the prosthesis
7 together. The instant amended claims recite a different connection
8 through a tubular extension which is permanently attached to the
9 intramedullary rod. This distinguishes over the split ring. The
10 claims have also been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to
11 include independent movement between the link and the
12 intramedullary rod.

13 **Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)**

14 Claim 9 stands rejected as obvious in view of Doubler et al
15 and Fernandez et al. As stated above, the Doubler patent does not
16 disclose a permanent, though adjustable, connection between a link
17 and the intramedullary rod which make up a subassembly. Further,
18 while the Fernandez device has a tapered outer surface of the
19 proximal end of the intramedullary rod, there is no link with an
20 external taper which is complementary to an interior taper of a
21 bore in the tubular extension on the intramedullary rod.


22 Therefore, the combination of references would not teach one
23 of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Doubler device to

1 produce the invention as now claimed.

2 SUMMARY

3 In light of the foregoing remarks and amendment to the claims,
4 it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner will now find the
5 claims of the application allowable. Favorable reconsideration of
6 the application is courteously requested.

7 Respectfully submitted,
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10 
11 C. Fred Rosenbaum
12 Registration # 27110
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14 McHale & Slavin, P.A.
15 2855 PGA Boulevard
16 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
17 (561) 625-6575 (Voice)
18 (561) 625-6572 (Fax)
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